



# CHOOSING A GREAT SCHOOL

## FINDING A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

Alabama Parent Education Center

# Types of Schools

## Public

- Community Schools
- State Schools
- Magnet Schools
- Charter Schools
- Online

## Private

- Private Schools
- Homeschool
- Online

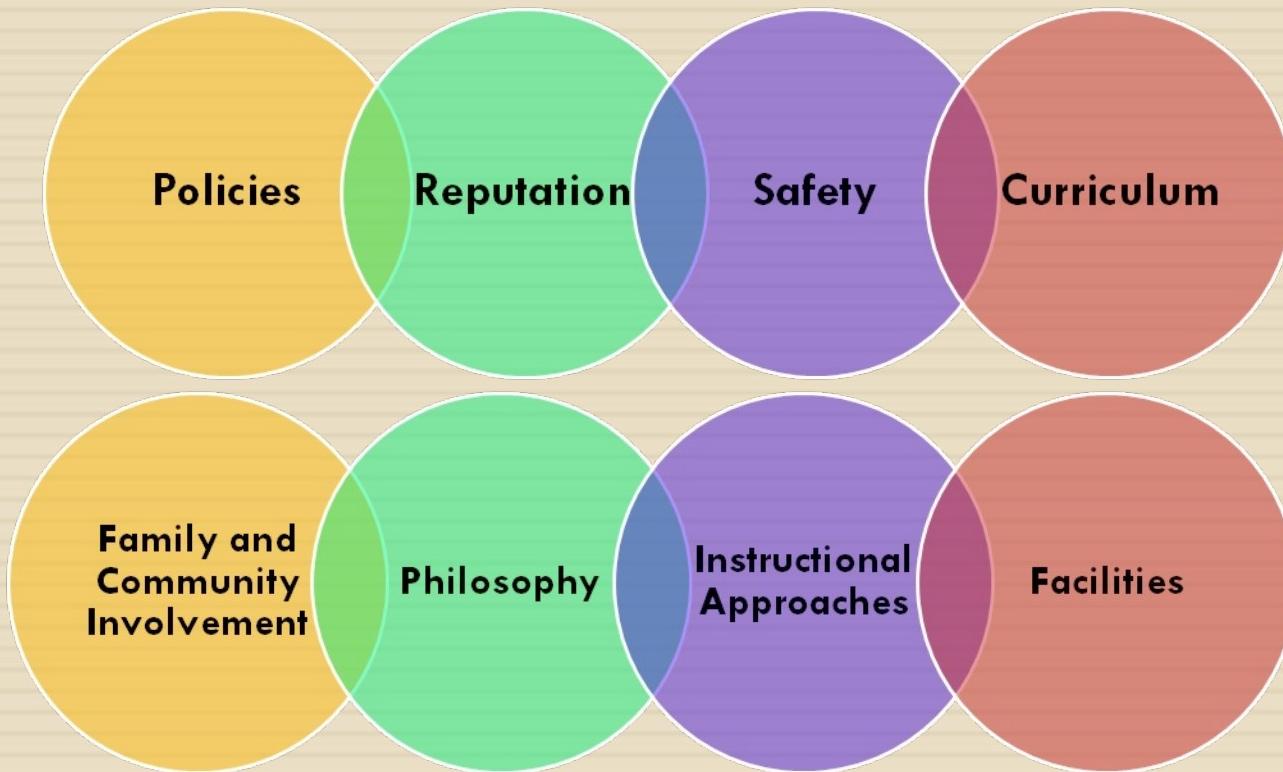
# Know Your Child

- Parents will want to think about their child's:
  - Personality
  - Learning style
  - Structure that their child responds well to
  - Special interest of the child
  - Special learning needs or disabilities
  - Activities or recreation that the child enjoys

# Know Your Family

- Parents should consider their values
- School Location and transportation needs
- Fees associated with the school

# Know Your School Characteristics



# School Policy

- Parents should carefully review the school's policy in the following areas:
  - Scheduling and programming day
  - School discipline and consequences
  - Homework
  - Grading policies
  - Acceleration and remediation opportunities
  - Retention
  - Support services and programs
  - Fee schedules if applicable
  - Parental involvement and engagement
  - Funding
  - Student to teacher ratios

# School Reputation

- Ask friends, neighbors, parents, and community leaders about the reputation of the school of interest
- Does the opinion apply to your family
- Is community diversity represented within the school staff and students
- Are students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds well integrated into the school and activities
- Are students with special learning needs well integrated into the school and activities

# School Safety

- School emergency plan-how will parents be notified in the event of an emergency
- What is the schools policy regarding guns, knives, and other hazardous items
- Does the school have a written policy regarding bullying and formal programming to combat bullying
- Contact the local police department regarding incidents

# Curriculum

- Ask what type of curriculum and standards are utilized to instruct and measure student progress
  - Common Core Standards
  - Curriculum and Grade level Standards
- Does the curriculum align with your parental expectations for your child's educational goals

# Family and Community Involvement

- Schools that strive to achieve excellence involve families meaningfully in diverse ways.
- Review their policies on parental involvement
- Inquire about formal policy opportunities
- Inquire about family volunteer opportunities
- Inquire about other parental opportunities in education, learning, activities, and recreation

# Philosophy

- Each school has a mission or philosophy of education
- Parents should review all of the school philosophy, mission, and belief statements
- Ask specific questions about the schools programming and teaching approaches

# Instructional Approaches

- Ask how the school is organized for instruction
- Inquire about the average class size at various grade levels
- Inquire about instructional standards and curriculum

# Facilities

- Modern, clean, and well-organized facilities
- Well equipped library
- Textbooks for each child
- Lunchroom
- Auditorium
- Physical Education facilities
- Staff and qualifications
  - Teacher and staff qualifications, English as a Second Language, Special Education, Nurse, School Secretary, Social Worker, Art, Music

# How Do You Know The Quality

- Educational Statistics
- School Report Cards
- Accreditations
- School Visits
- Realtors

# Resources



We have included the ***Choosing a Great School Newsletter*** that includes questions to consider and ask as you select a school placement that is right for your child.

# APEC is Here To Help

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